

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Previously Presented) A switching node in a telecommunications network, comprising:

a first service control module for issuing a first service request message containing information regarding a requested service;

a first connection control module having a first service interface receiving said first service request message from said first service control module and for sending a first link request message, and having a first physical device interface module responsive to said first link request message for establishing connection to a first physical device,

a second service control module for issuing a second service request message containing information regarding a requested service;

a second connection control module having a second service interface receiving said second service request from said second service control module and for sending a second link request message, and having a second physical device interface module responsive to said second link request message for establishing connection to a second physical device, and

a communication channel between said first and second connection control modules by which one of said first and second connection control modules can send to the other of said

connection control modules a link request message indicating that a connection is to be made between said first and second physical devices.

2. (Previously Presented) The switching node according to claim 1, wherein said first connection control module communicates with at least one other service control module of said switching node.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Previously Presented) The switching module according to claim 1, wherein said service request message indicates that at least one of a predetermined type of physical device drivers is needed for establishing a connection pertaining to a call, said first service interface generates said first device interface in response to said first service request message.

5. (Previously Presented) The switching node according to claim 4, wherein said first device interface module transmits a resource request message to an associated resource manager module included in said switching node, and said associated resource manager module selects a physical device driver corresponding to said first physical device from a plurality of physical device drivers of said predetermined type and included in or coupled to said switching node based upon said resource request message.

6. (Previously Presented) The switching node according to claim 5, wherein said first physical device interface module activates said associated physical device driver, and confirms said activation to said first service interface.

7. (Previously Presented) The switching node according to claim 6, wherein said first service interface confirms said activation to said first service control module.

8. (Previously Presented) The switching node according to claim 1, wherein in case said first service request message indicates that a physical device driver of said switching node is to be removed from an existing call connection, said first service interface deleting an existing physical device interface module associated to said physical device driver and included within said connection control module.

9. (Previously Presented) The switching node according to claim 1, wherein said first service request message indicates that the operation of a physical device driver of said switching node is to be modified, said service interface initiating a state change within an existing physical device interface associated with said physical device driver and included within said connection control module.

10. (Previously Presented) The switching node according to claim 1, wherein in said first service request message indicates that said at least one other connection control module is involved, and said first service interface communicates with said second service interface .

11. (Previously Presented) The switching node according to claim 10, wherein upon communication with said second service interface module, said service interface module communicates with a physical device interface module referred to in said first service request message and included in said first connection control module.

12. (Currently Amended) The switching node according to claim 11, wherein said physical device interface module referred to in said service request message communicates with a second physical device interface referred to in said first service request message and included in said second connection control module.

Claims 13-16. (Canceled)

17. (New) A switching node according to claim 1, wherein both of said first and second connection control modules are included in said switching node.